Bird flu deaths

2479. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons in the country who have so far been hit by bird flu, State-wise;

(b) the number out of them who have scumbed to the disease, State-wise; and

(c) the extent to which the Central Government have assisted the States, financially and by providing effective medicine for the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There are no reports of any human cases of Avian Influenza (Bird flu) in the country.

Death of poultry had been reported from Navapur Taluka of District Nandurbar, Maharashtra and Uchchhal Tehsil of Surat district in Gujarat. A series of strategic actions were initiated immediately on confirmation of Avian Influenza. The contingency plans were put into operation. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India deputed its rapid Response Teams to Maharashtra and to Gujarat. The teams were in the field and assisted the State health Authorities in carrying out active surveillance to identify suspected cases among contacts of infected poultry. Adequate quantity of Tamiflu and personal protective equipments were made available to both the States to meet the requirement.

On 14th March, 2006 Department of Animal Husbandry notified outbreak of Avian influenza in Hated village (Chopada Taluka), Swada village (Raver Taluka) Salva village (Dharangaon Taluka) and Marul Village (Yaval Taluka) of Jalgaon District of Maharashtra. Animal Husbanry Department has initiated control and containment operations in 10 Kilometer radius of the four villages. Rapid Response Teams of Ministry of Health & F.W. and the State Government are in the field carrying out active house to house surveillance and Information, Education and Communication strategies.

Required quantity of Tamiflu and personal protective equipments have been made available to the State Government. The situation is being closely monitored.